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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 19-21, 2016 | High -2°C/Low -4°C Snow

BIOPIC

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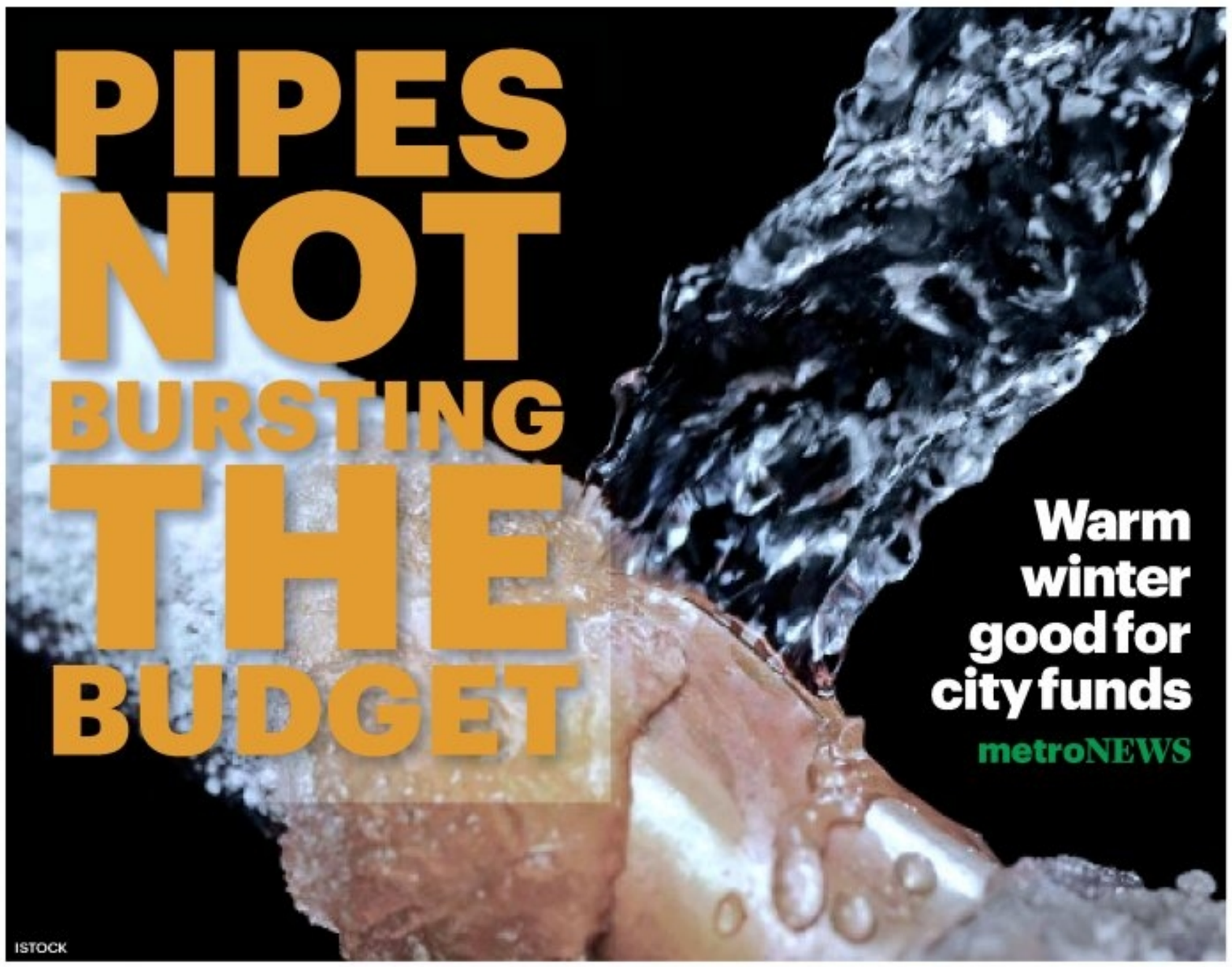
metroWEEKEND

PIPES NOT BURSTING THE BUDGET



ISTOCK

Warm winter good for city funds

metroNEWS

Bus crash leaves 2 injured

ORLEANS

Teen siblings were hit while at a bus shelter

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

A brother and sister have been taken to hospital after an OC Transpo bus crashed into an Orleans bus shelter Thursday morning.

A 14-year-old boy and his 16-year-old sister were waiting at the stop near Jeanne D'arc Boulevard and Youville Drive with their mother when the southbound bus went off course around 8:20 a.m.

The boy was pinned between the bus and a snowbank until bystanders were able to pull him out a few minutes later.

He was conscious throughout the ordeal and suffered pelvis injuries, according to a statement from the Ottawa paramedics.

Spokesman JP Trottier, who classified the injuries as "relatively minor," said the accident could have been a lot worse.

"I think he was fairly lucky to get away with that," Trottier said. "We certainly expected more injuries."

The sister had minor cuts on her hands and face from broken glass. Their mother was unhurt, a paramedics statement said.

Ottawa Police spokesman Const. Marc Soucy said road conditions "may have played a part, but the investigation is not complete."

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Pope says women can use contraception if threatened with Zika virus.

Ottawa man charged with first-degree murder

CRIME

Police say the victim was targeted, attack planned

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

An Ottawa man with a lengthy criminal record in Ontario and Quebec is now facing a charge of first-degree murder in connection with the death of a Gatineau, Que., woman last October.

Gatineau police held a news conference Thursday to announce the arrest of Blake Dooley, 53, following a nearly four-month homicide investigation into the death of Christine MacNeil.

Dooley was scheduled to make his first appearance to face the charge of murder after he was arrested and interrogated by the Gatineau police major crime unit on Wednesday afternoon.

Police also searched three homes in Ottawa's west end the day he was arrested.

Gatineau Police Insp. Marc Leduc said the MacNeil homicide was a targeted killing. "Ms. MacNeil knew Mr. Dooley and evidence shows that the murder was planned," said Leduc.

He said he hopes his arrest can bring some closure to the MacNeil family and "help in their mourning."

Dooley has a criminal record dating back to 1996. Ontario court records show he was convicted of assault with a weapon in relation to an incident in Eganville, Ont., on June 7, 1996 and was sentenced to one year in jail and a lifetime weapons prohibition.

A month later he was convicted of aggravated assault and was sentenced to two years in prison.

In 2009 and 2010, he was also convicted of impaired driving charges in Eganville and in Ottawa.

Quebec court records show he also pleaded guilty to a March 5, 2012 charge of possession of a prohibited firearm and was sentenced to 36 months in jail.

Leduc wouldn't divulge how Dooley knew the victim, but said those details would come out in court. He said the investigation is ongoing and police might make more arrests.

VICTIM

Christine MacNeil, 25, was found suffering from gunshot wounds at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Gatineau after police were called to the scene just after 8 p.m. She was later pronounced dead in hospital.

RECREATION

Outdoor rink may be built in Canterbury

The city's first outdoor covered rink may end up being built in Alta Vista's Canterbury community.

"We really want this to be a nice, accessible social hub — a social complex — where people could walk up with their skates and visit their neighbours, who might be skating, to have a good view of the park," said Alta Vista Coun. Jean Cloutier, who first pitched the idea to ward residents when he ran for office in 2014.

If approved by council, the $5.8-million facility would be built next door to the Brian Kilrea Arena, located at 2185 Arch St., by November 2017.

The plan calls for an outdoor, covered space that would have a standard-sized refrigerated ice pad, measuring 70 by 160 feet, from November to March.

That's a longer skating season than at city hall's Rink of Dreams, Cloutier noted.

"The covered part is a very important aspect of this proposal," he said, noting the roof would allow the site to be used at other times of the year, regardless of the weather.

To pay for Ottawa's first outdoor covered rink, the cost will be divvied up, with $2.5 million coming from development charges — the maximum allowable amount, as well as $400,000 in user fees, which includes at least $15,000 a year for a decade from the Canterbury Community Association, and from sponsorships.

ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND MEDIA

WEATHER A BUSY SNOW DAY
A maintenance worker goes to extreme lengths to clear 51 centimetres of snow off a glass awning at 123 Slater Street Thursday afternoon. Like some extremely Canadian TRX routine, the man was suspended on ropes as he tackled the heavy load one-handed.
EMMA JACKSON/METRO

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The fellowship of local beer

DRINKING

Rival brewer helps out after hand-crafted sign stolen

THE BOTTLENECK

Jordan Duff

I had planned to put together a humble list of suggested seasonally appropriate dark beers for a frigid February. But then I became aware of the touching story that took place this week between Broadhead Brewing and Waller St. Brewing. I think this anecdote fits right in and warms the heart on a cold day.

On Feb. 5, some selfish fellow climbed the railing along the exterior of Waller St. brewery and stole the large wooden logo sign that hung on the heritage building. No ordinary piece of advertising, this was a hand-carved piece of art, gifted to the brewery by a relative of head brewer Marc-André Chainey. It had hung outside the building since the brewery opened. Waller St. asked the public's help in locating the sentimentally valuable sign, but, alas, it's still missing.

Hearing of Waller's plight, the bearded gents over at Broadhead Brewing Company wanted to help. As luck would have it, one of the brewers had a CNC router table at his workshop and was able to recreate a wooden version of the Waller St. sign.

Broadhead presented the sign to the Waller St. crew to act as a placeholder until the original is found. While this was a very kind act, my favourite part is that this generous deed was the first interaction between the two breweries. That said, Marc is already working on a second interaction with Broadhead: enjoying pints.

Luckily for those of us who love supporting the local scene, these friendly acts are not uncommon in the craft beer world. Broadhead's Josh explained: "The craft beer community here in Ottawa is very collaborative and friendly."

In fact, when they first opened, Beau's Brewing owner Steve Beauchesne reached out to Broadhead to welcome them to the community and offer any required assistance. It's an incredible concept to see co-operation between these businesses rather than rivalry. Ask any brewery for a feel-good story and they will have an industry tale of compassion. Waller St.'s Marc agrees: "It's a good example that competition does not have mean being one against the other."

All around, heart-warming stuff. Now, if that doesn't restore your faith in humanity, maybe these handsome porters and stouts will.

Broadhead Brewing came to the rescue when someone stole the hand-crafted sign that hung outside fellow beer-makers Waller St. Brewing. COURTESY CHLOE MACISAAC

Broadhead Brewing — Dark Horse Stout

This stud provides a delicious malt roast and rich chocolate bouquet. Smooth and well-bodied, this stout is a safe bet for your next venture to the LCBO.

Waller St. Brewing — Moonlight Porter

Unlike most of the beers in this list, you'll find the hop profile in this interpretation of the porter style more pronounced. This creates a crisp finish rather than a slow lingering on the palate.

Beau's Brewery — Tom Green Milk Stout

One of the more widely available dark brews at the LCBO. Don't be put off by "milk stout" — the lactose sugars create a subtle but delectable creaminess.

Dominion City Brewing Company — Lost Train Stout

Paying homage to the fabled beer train that resides somewhere beneath LeBreton Flats, this distinguished roasted brew carries just the right weight and keeps you chugging along.

Bicycle Craft Brewery — Base Camp Oatmeal Porter

Guaranteed to heat you back up after some time out in the snow. Nice robust flavours of dark chocolate and coffee are delivered through a smooth mouthfeel.

Stalwart Brewing — Bad Moon Rye Stout

Not only do the rye malts work as an ode to John Fogerty, they also provide a luxurious mouthfeel that perfectly balances the notes of morning coffee.

Whiprsnapr Brewing — UNF

Brewer Ian McMartin created this unromantically named beer especially for Valentine's Day. It's impossible to miss the big notes of chocolate, vanilla, espresso and cherry. It's essentially dessert in a bottle.

Muskoka Brewery — Winter Beard

I know, it's outside the 100-mile diet. But it's tasty and available at your local LCBO! Cranberry and chocolate augment the thick brew. Bonus: The higher ABV allows the patient fans to age a couple bottles for future winters.

Nickel Brook Brewing — Kentucky Bastard Bourbon Barrel Aged Imperial Stout (2015)

A long name, but it's well-deserved since this is a big 12% beer. Hugely flavourful with the perfect amount of bourbon sweetness, it's no surprise RateBeer.com named this a top beer for 2015.

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ALCOHOL

Grocery stores to carry wine

Wine, beer and cider will be sold in up to 300 grocery stores in Ontario in the next decade, but that appears to largely be the extent to which the Liberal government is planning to modernize alcohol distribution and sales.

Premier Kathleen Wynne announced Thursday that the province will now allow wine to be sold in grocery stores, building on her government's expansion of beer sales last year. An initial block of 70 so-called "universal" licences for grocery stores to sell wine and beer will be allocated this summer, with an eye to having them operational in the fall.

There are currently 292 retail wine stores operating separately in grocery stores, and up to 150 of those could be converted to beer and wine outlets inside the stores with a shared checkout, still operated by the private wine companies.

The timeline will ultimately be up to government but recommendations from Ed Clark, the former TD Bank executive turned premier's adviser on government assets, suggest that by 2025 Ontario could see beer and wine sold in 300 grocery stores, with a further 150 selling beer only.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, right, and Finance Minister Charles Sousa. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Geoff MacBride of the Ontario Paramedic Association wants a college to regulate paramedics. KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HEALTH

Paramedics chief says no to college

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The president of the CUPE Ambulance Committee of Ontario says the Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa (PPAO) should not be advocating for a professional college because paramedics are already "over-regulated."

This week, PPAO president Darryl Wilton echoed a call from Ontario Paramedic Association president Geoff MacBride, and others, to have the profession governed by a college, much like the one that governs doctors and chiropractors.

He said a college would establish working orders and remove layers of oversight that, for example, require paramedics to consult doctors before administering medication to overdose patients.

But CUPE's Jeff van Pelt, whose union represents almost 6,000 paramedics in Ontario, said a college isn't the answer and the three levels of oversight are there to protect the public. Paramedics are already governed by their employer, a base hospital advisory group, and the Ministry of Health.

"He says 'I don't want to have to call the doctor, I want control over all this stuff.' So let's say he gives the medication and it's too much. So now, we have to go back and investigate him. So which way is protecting the patient better?" said van Pelt. "(The doctors) are protecting us from making errors."

If a paramedic cannot reach the hospital to get the OK on administering drugs to a patient, he or she is allowed to give the medication anyway up to a maximum amount, van Pelt said.

Paramedics are already self-regulated in Alberta, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. Nova Scotia announced a plan to establish a College of Paramedics late last year and the idea is still under consideration in Manitoba.

> **The doctors are protecting us from making errors.**
> Jeff van Pelt, CUPE

IN BRIEF

Commission finds issues with insider reporting

Ontario's securities regulator says 70 per cent of the publicly traded companies it examined had deficiencies in their insider reporting.

People who are considered insiders of a publicly traded company must file reports disclosing information about transactions involving the company's securities. One of the aims is to deter insider trading.

The commission's review resulted in roughly 200 insiders filing new reports to address deficiencies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Plenty left in their pipes

CITY BUDGETS

Bottom lines far from frosty in warm winter

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

The unseasonably warm winter has thawed the city's budget after last year's deluge of frozen pipes, officials say.

Last February, the frost layer was 1.6 metres deep and one day more than 60 properties had no water because of frozen services.

Combined with a record number of water main breaks in March — also due to deep frost — crews were out around the clock, said environmental services manager Dixon Weir.

"The two of them together contributed to an awful lot of overtime expenditures," he said.

It's a different story this year. The frost only kissed 1.2 metres last weekend, and just eight properties are without water.

"The frost isn't really in the ground," said Weir. "It's well above where we start to run into problems."

When the frost hits 1.2 metres deep, the city sends about 100 friendly reminders to troublesome properties, asking them to open their taps at the city's expense. That usually happens by late January, but this year wasn't until mid-February. The city will send another 1,400 letters at 1.5 metres deep, but Weir suspects that won't happen.

"If we're only hitting 1.2 metres at this late point in the year, I don't know if we're going to see it drive down," Weir said. He reminded residents to keep their basements at 6 C or warmer to avoid burst pipes.

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5 THINGS TO DO IN OTTAWA THIS WEEKEND

The weather forecast is looking mild this weekend after the huge snow dump, with temperatures once again hovering around 0 C. The Rideau Canal Skateway and the city's tobogganing hills are free to enjoy — but if you're looking for something more here's Metro 's roundup. **HALEY RITCHIE** METRO

1 Boat and Sportmen's Show

It's cold now but summer and open waters will be returning in a few months. Starting Thursday at the EY Centre, the Ottawa Boat and Sportmen's Show is the place to get prepped for boating and fishing. There will also be a casting pond, hands-on wildlife demo and chainsaw carving competition. Wear camo on Sunday for a chance to win prizes. Adult admission is $15. (all weekend)

2 Sexapalooza

Sexapalooza returns this year for some post-Valentine's Day fun. Aside from an entire showroom of adult vendors there will also be sexy demonstrations, burlesque and drag performances and meet-and-greets with adult film stars. Day tickets are $25 and the show begins Friday at the Shaw Centre. It should go without saying that the event is 19+. (all weekend)

3 High tea for kids

Does your house have a cupcake or tea enthusiast between the ages of five and seven? If so, you'll want to check out the Billings Estate on Saturday for the high tea edition of "Into the Kitchen." From 10 to 11:30 a.m., kids can make their own tea blend, bake cupcakes, take an etiquette lesson and top it all off with a tea party. Advance registration is recommended and the cost is $6.15 per participant. (Saturday)

4 Geek and Gaming Garage Sale

Need to do some shopping but still feeling the post-holiday crunch? Head to the Nepean Sportsplex on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the winter edition of the Ottawa Geek Garage Sale. There will be more than 40 vendors selling books, comics, crafts, games and collectibles and a free video game and tabletop gaming area. Entry tickets are $2. (Saturday)

5 Canadian Ski Marathon

North America's longest Nordic ski tour takes place this weekend in Quebec. The event is flexible enough to include amateurs and kids but also those wannabe Coureur des Boises taking on the entire 160-kilometre route. It's too late to register but over 600 residents from Ottawa and the surrounding area will be participating in the epic cross-country event. (all weekend)

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A human trafficking victim walks inside her bedroom in Scarborough, Ont., in this November 2015 file photo. MELISSA RENWICK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calls to tackle sex trafficking issue

ONTARIO

Government urged to adopt public bill to combat 'crisis'

Advocates who work with victims of human trafficking are urging the Ontario government to adopt a private member's bill to take immediate action to address what they call a crisis.

"Sex trafficking is a growing and significant issue in Ontario," said Cynthia Bland, founder of Voice Found, a survivor-led non-profit that educates people about commercial sexual exploitation. "The average age when most girls are trafficked into prostitution is 14, and many don't even know they've been trafficked until it's too late."

Simone Bell of Ottawa, a victim of trafficking, said she frequently came into contact with police, nurses, doctors and social workers during her four years as a prostitute, but felt they judged her on her appearance and never offered her any help.

"My plight was invisible to the many provincial systems and front-line workers who should have protected me," said Bell. "(They) missed many opportunities to intervene and help extricate me from the exploitive situation. How can you come forward when people are making you feel ashamed?"

Vulnerable young people need non-judgmental help and understanding, added Bell. "No child or youth is a prostitute," she said. "They are being prostituted, which is exploitation."

Progressive Conservative women's critic Laurie Scott has a private member's bill that would give police the power to enforce protection orders against traffickers on behalf of the victims, and to assess punitive measures if breached. Victims' families, police and Children's Aid Societies would be able to apply for a minimum three-year protection order from traffickers. The bill would also allow victims to seek compensation in court and add convicted traffickers to the province's sex offender registry.

> **"The average age when most girls are trafficked into prostitution is 14.**
> Cynthia Bland

Premier Kathleen Wynne told the legislature that Ontario will have a comprehensive strategy to combat human trafficking by June, and said it would be "much broader" than Scott's legislation. Wynne agreed the issue has reached a crisis point, and said Ontario is working with Manitoba to see how that province is trying to deal with it.

A report issued in December by a legislative committee found Ontario has become a "major hub" for human trafficking and sexual violence, with 90 per cent of the victims being local underage girls and young women.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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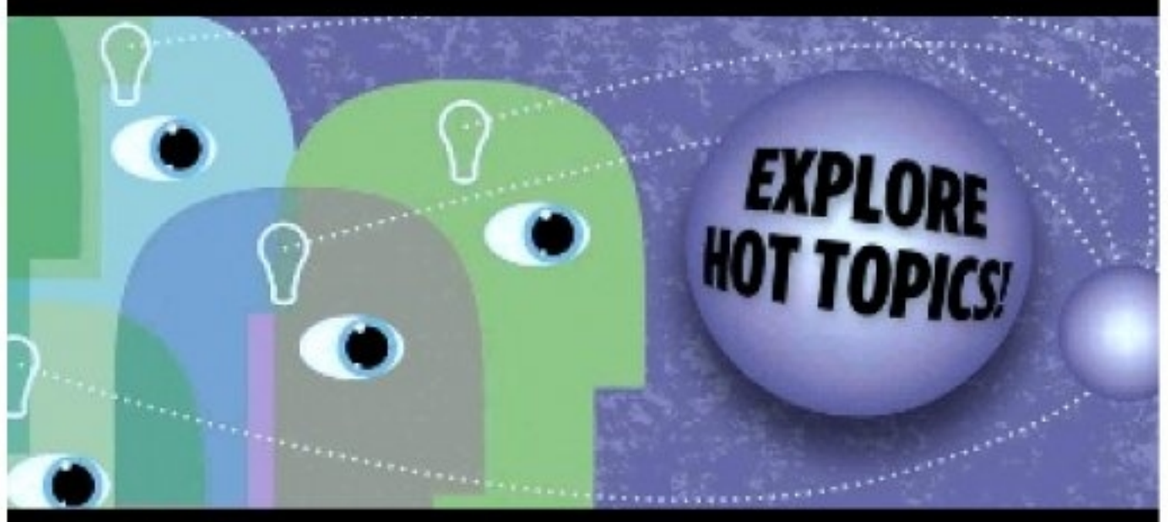

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John Olson, co-founder of 3DPhotoworks, shows off his new 3D-printing technology heralded as a breakthrough for people with vision loss. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

New exhibit breaks down stereotypes

When amateur photographer Tara Miller lost most of her vision in high school, she did what most people would expect — she put her camera away.

It wasn't until years later that Miller picked up a camera again and discovered a much richer experience. She used her keen hearing, the feeling of the lens focusing on a subject and even her sense of smell to frame an image.

"When I'm composing an image, I'm not really using my eyesight," said Miller, now a professional commercial photographer in Winnipeg.

"There's no difference with us being visually impaired or legally blind photographers. If we're comfortable in what we're shooting, we're going to get that same result as someone who's fully sighted."

Blind photographers like Miller are hoping a new exhibit at Winnipeg's Canadian Museum for Human Rights, opening to the public this weekend, will help showcase talent and break down stereotypes surrounding the visually impaired.

The exhibit entitled "Sight Unseen: International Photography by Blind Artists" features over 100 works but also uses 3D technology to allow those with vision loss to feel some select photos with their fingertips while touch sensors in the prints set off descriptive audio.

One photographer's work is embedded with braille while another is accompanied by a topographical print-out of the photo, which can be touched by visitors.

"It does a great job of expanding the perception, the expectations and pre-conceived biases that people would have," said Corey Timpson, the museum's vice-president of exhibitions, research and design.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugee plan sees promise

RESETTLEMENT

Slight gain in support, but many remain divided: Poll

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Support has grown slightly for Canada's plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by March 1, but Canadians still remain at odds over the issue, results of a new poll show.

More than half of Canadians (52 per cent) support Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's plan to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to this country by March 1, while 44 per cent oppose the plan, according to an Angus Reid Institute poll.

That's an increase of eight percentage points in support of the plan since the institute's last poll on the issue in November, conducted shortly after the terrorist attacks in Paris, which found 54 per cent of Canadians opposed and 42 per cent in support of the plan.

Shachi Kurl, executive director of the Angus Reid Institute, said the increase in support might be due to the Liberal government's decision to push back the deadline from Jan. 1 to March 1.

"Canadians are still deeply divided on this issue," Kurl told Metro. "But what we can take away from this is … really that extension of two months took a lot of the heat off and certainly enabled a lot of people to change their thinking on the plan overall."

Coverage

The federal Liberals are ripping up a patchwork system of health-care coverage for newly arrived refugees and those seeking refugee status in favour of blanket coverage for all, beginning in April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HUMAN RIGHTS

Shoal Lake prepares to address the UN

Linda Redsky is packing her bags, leaving her isolated community and preparing to share the plight of Shoal Lake 40 on the world stage.

Shoal Lake, which lies on the Ontario-Manitoba border, provides the City of Winnipeg with clean drinking water, but has been under a boil-water advisory itself for nearly two decades and is cut off from the mainland.

Redsky and possibly a second band member will join the Human Rights Watch at the United Nations in Geneva on Monday as the rights watchdog presents a report detailing its preliminary findings on Shoal Lake 40 and three other Ontario reserves.

The presentation will be made to the UN committee on economic, social and cultural rights, which is reviewing Canada's track record on human rights.

Redsky, 55, has fallen through an ice road while trying to cross into the community during the winter, and recently had to temporarily relocate off-reserve to Kenora, Ont., so her foster son could attend high school.

She said she's seen the plight of her community get worse over the years "as I've watched the people continue to go across."

AUSTIN GRABISH/FOR METRO

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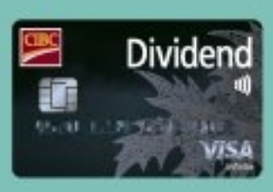

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Obama to talk human rights on Cuba trip

DIPLOMACY

Meeting with advocates a condition of historic visit

President Barack Obama said Thursday he'll raise human rights issues and other U.S. concerns with Cuban President Raul Castro during a history-making visit to the communist island nation.

The brief visit in mid-March will mark a watershed moment in relations between the U.S. and Cuba, making Obama the first sitting U.S. president to set foot on the island in nearly seven decades. While in the country, Obama plans to meet with groups advocating for change in Cuba, a condition the president had laid out publicly for such a trip.

Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Rodrigo Malmierca, on a visit to Washington, told The Associated Press that Obama's visit is good news for Cuba.

"The president will be welcomed," he said in Spanish.

The U.S. was estranged from the communist nation for over half a century until Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro moved toward rapprochement more than a year ago.

Since then, the nations have reopened embassies in Washington and Havana and have moved to restore commercial air travel, with a presidential visit seen as a key next step toward bridging the divide.

Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, said the president will carry the message that the U.S. and Cuba need not be defined by their "complicated and difficult history."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We still have differences with the Cuban government ... America will always stand for human rights around the world.
President Obama

1 Kainaat Soomro sits in her home. She was 13 years old when three men kidnapped her, held her for several days and raped her.

2 Sidra Kamwal was the victim of a horrific acid attack.

3 When Azra was 18, her family sold her to an older man — now she fights for a divorce.

ALL PHOTOS: SHAKIL ADIL/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLE EAST

Pakistani women still fighting for justice

Kainat Soomro was 13 years old and on her way to buy a toy for her newborn niece when three men kidnapped her, held her for several days and repeatedly raped her.

Eight years later, she is still battling for justice. She sits on a steel-framed bed in her parents' three-bedroom home, and holds her blue shawl tight around her body. When she describes the horror of her captivity, her voice is barely a whisper, but it gains strength when she talks of the fight she has been waging: going to Pakistan's courts, holding protests, rejecting the rulings of the traditional Jirga council, taking on the powerful landlord and politician who she says are protecting her attackers.

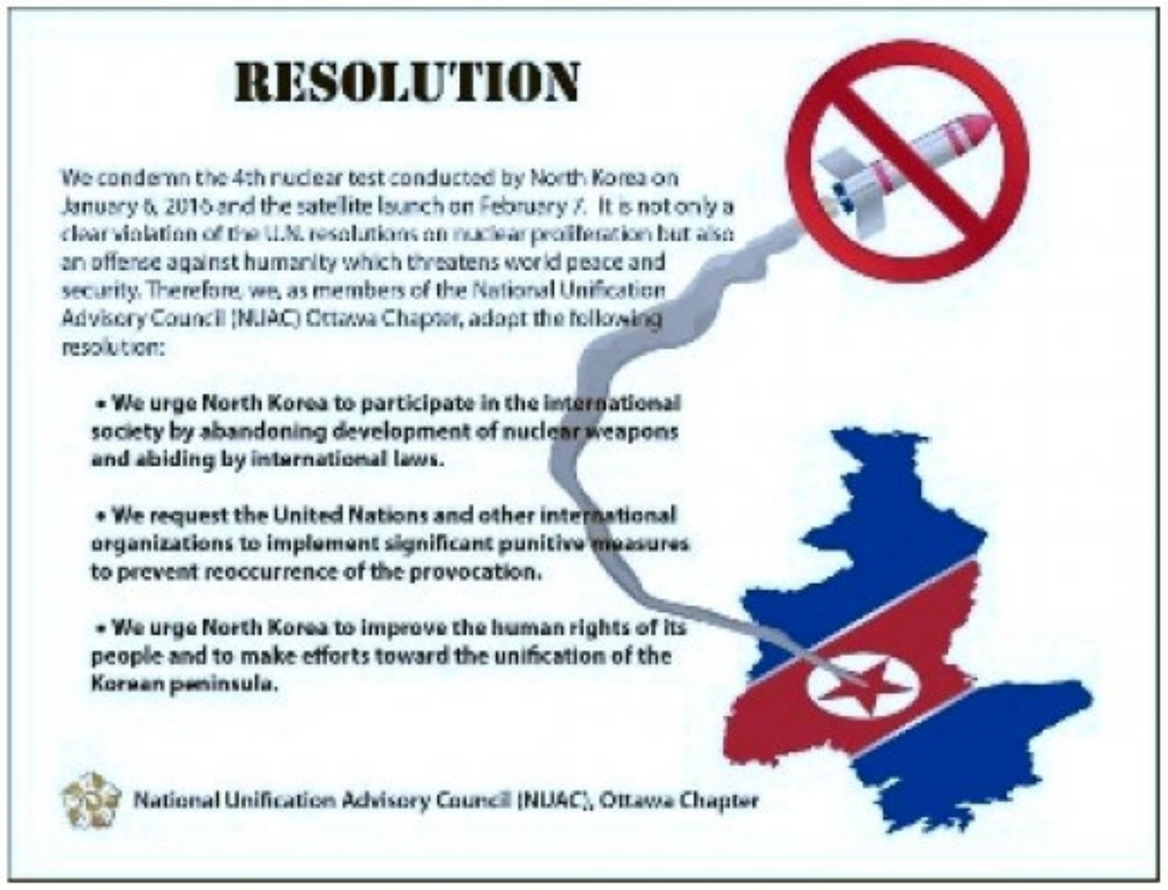
The Associated Press does not usually identify victims of sexual abuse, but Kainat has gone public with her case. Her battle for justice has inspired an award-winning 2014 movie, Outlawed in Pakistan. Malala Yousefzai, the Pakistani teenage Nobel Peace Prize winner who was shot by the Taliban, invited Kainat to the Nobel award ceremony, and her fund has given Kainat financial help.

Yet Kainat's family has paid a high price for her bravery. One sister remains unmarried and another was divorced because her in-laws were ashamed to be associated with Kainat. In 2010, her brother was killed over his sister's refusal to stay silent.

> **Each year a gamut of promises is made for the protection and development of women, but (they) remain unfulfilled.** Excerpt from the Human Right Commission's 2014 report

Clutching a gold-framed picture of his son, Ghulam Nabi Soomro spat out words of condemnation. "They know about our troubles thousands of miles away but here in the next street no one is helping us get justice," he said.

In Pakistan, women are often too fearful to report sexual violence, yet the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan recorded 423 rapes and 304 gang rapes last year. It also said that last year at least one woman a day was killed in the name of honour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


RESOLUTION
We condemn the 4th nuclear test conducted by North Korea on January 6, 2016 and the satellite launch on February 7. It is not only a clear violation of the U.N. resolutions on nuclear proliferation but also an offense against humanity which threatens world peace and security. Therefore, we, as members of the National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC) Ottawa Chapter, adopt the following resolution:
• We urge North Korea to participate in the international society by abandoning development of nuclear weapons and abiding by international laws.
• We request the United Nations and other international organizations to implement significant punitive measures to prevent reoccurrence of the provocation.
• We urge North Korea to improve the human rights of its people and to make efforts toward the unification of the Korean peninsula.
National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC), Ottawa Chapter

ECOLOGY

Rural Australia still facing 'hairy panic'

Irene Kuan
For Metro

There's a "hairy panic" in the rural city of Wangaratta, northeast of Victoria, Australia.

This term may have caught your attention, but what this "hairy panic" is referring to are fast-growing, out-of-control tumbleweeds that are overtaking properties, covering furniture and blocking entrance ways to homes and garages.

Although residents say the tumbleweeds are a common nuisance, the unusually dry conditions have made them unbearable this year. Wangaratta resident Matt Thewlis posted photos of the bizarre situation to the Rural City of Wangaratta's Facebook page asking for help, citing the weeds as "a massive fire hazard."

Residents told Australia's 7 News they spend hours everyday digging their way out of the colossal tumbleweeds all to have the pesky grass pile back up.

Tumbleweeds outside a home. FACEBOOK.COM

WILDLIFE

Crowd poses with beached baby dolphin until it dies

Wildlife groups are furious after a crowd on an Argentine beach passed around a young dolphin for selfies until it died from dehydration.

The baby La Plata dolphin — also known as a Fransicana dolphin and considered a vulnerable species — was found on Santa Teresita beach.

ANDREW FIFIELD/METRO

Tourists with the dolphin. FACEBOOK.COM

Virus causes modest drag

ECONOMY

Zika threat hurting trade, tourism in Latin America

The spread of Zika will have a modest drag on economies in Latin America, with tourism-dependent Caribbean nations most at risk, the World Bank said Thursday. It made $150 million immediately available to help fight the virus.

The World Health Organization has declared a global health emergency in response to the Zika outbreak and the U.S. is urging pregnant women to avoid travel to the 26 nations and territories in the Americas where Zika is present because researchers have identified possible links between the virus and rare birth defects.

But despite the scare, the World Bank says the impact from the epidemic is likely to be small.

In a report, it estimates lost revenue will total only $3.6 billion, or about 0.6 per cent of the region's gross domestic product. That would come from reduced travel to the region and sick employees missing work, while anti-mosquito efforts will strain already tight national budgets.

The forecast assumes the regional and international response to the virus is swift and well co-ordinated.

"Our analysis underscores the importance of urgent action to halt the spread of the Zika virus and to protect the health and well-being of people in the affected countries," Jim Yong Kim, president of the Washington-based World Bank, said in a statement.

While a number of countries have reported a rash of business conference and wedding cancellations, hotels were booked full and the mood as festive as ever during this month's Carnival celebration in Brazil, the epicentre of the epidemic. In Rio de Janeiro, average hotel occupancy was 86 per cent during the festivities, an increase of almost three percentage points over the previous year, according to the Brazilian Hoteliers' Association. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mara Torres, eight months pregnant, looks at a mosquito net placed over her bed Wednesday in Cali, Colombia. The spread of Zika will modestly affect Latin American economies, with tourism-dependent Caribbean nations most at risk, the World Bank says. LUIS ROBAYO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

STOCK OPTIONS

Abandon tax plan: Shopify

The CEO of one of Canada's up-and-coming tech companies is calling on the federal government to abandon its plan to expand taxation of stock options, saying the move will make it more difficult for startup firms to attract talent.

Tobi Lutke PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tobi Lutke said the Liberal proposal would have made it more difficult to launch his Ottawa-based company, Shopify.

"It would have been harder to build Shopify with the taxation being the way that it's proposed," he said in an interview.

During last year's federal election, the Liberals promised to cap how much can be claimed through stock option deductions.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau said he will soon release details about the commitment. The government is expected to release its first budget mid-March. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
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Weekend, February 19-21, 2016

Metro POLL

Where is it okay to smoke?

Visit metronews.ca to have your say.

New research shows indoor smoking bans like the one introduced in Ireland in 2004 do help reduce illnesses caused by second-hand smoke, which kill 600,000 people per year worldwide. Gone are days of smoking sections and billboards advertising "smooth" cigarettes, but 18 per cent of Canadians still take a puff at least occasionally, and there's controversy as to where they should be allowed to do it — indoors, outdoors, in public, in cars or not at all. We asked readers if the right to clean air should take priority, or if the "smoke free" movement has gone so far that it threatens individual freedom.

1 Should smoking be banned in indoor public spaces?

2 What's your experience with second-hand smoke?

3 Where should smoking be banned?

30% Indoor public places
25% In cars if children are present
17% In private homes if children are present
14% Outdoor public places
8% Literally everywhere. And let's ban tobacco too
6% Other

Let's have places (and rules) where it is specifically allowed. Adults-only places.

It should be allowed everywhere except where there's a fire hazard.

Ban smoking in apartment buildings where smoke can get into other units.

If you live in a city, second-hand smoke doesn't hold a candle to all of the smog.

WE ASKED Metro readers

Why show mosquitoes mercy?

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

The Zika virus should be called the sneaky virus.

In near-silence it ambushed the better part of a continent, infecting more than a million people in less than two years, mostly in Brazil. The majority got mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. And then the babies started being born.

There's very strong, but not yet conclusive, evidence that Zika exposure in utero can cause microcephaly — infants with abnormally small heads and brains. It's devastating, and it often isn't diagnosed until birth. Thousands of babies are believed to be affected, though the uptick may be partly because of more diagnoses and possibly other causes, including other viruses.

Pope Francis has indicated he may be OK with contraception for women at risk of Zika. In ultra-Catholic Latin America. That's how high the level of fear and anguish is.

And it's all mosquitoes' fault. *Aedes aegypti*'s fault, specifically. That's the invasive African species that transmits Zika, dengue and yellow fever.

Not even humans can hold a candle to the jerk-itude of mosquitoes. No other species has come close to causing as much human suffering and death — skeeters sicken hundreds of millions and kill 725,000 people every year.

So why let them live? Why not global annihilation? A high ecological price might be warranted in exchange for a world with no Zika or other mosquito-borne diseases.

Someone brings this up seemingly every time there's a major mosquito-borne outbreak. This time it was Daniel Engber of Slate, who called for "full-scale mosquito-cide."

Eradication, whether of a virus, an insect or anything else, is a seductive public-health concept: It's simple, it's focused and it lends itself to goal-setting and international co-operation. And when it works, it saves not just the lives of people today, but billions of future people.

I *want* mosquito eradication to make sense, at least for *aegypti*, which isn't even native to the Americas. But there's no scientific consensus that it a) could be done, or that b) the environmental collateral damage would be worth it.

Problem A: Feasibility. You may have heard about a new high-tech, lethal anti-mosquito weapon: genetically modified male mosquitoes that mate with wild females and produce mosquito babies that can't survive. The UN supports this.

Though the technology is experimental, it's been shown to work: *Aegypti* has plummeted where such frankenflies have been introduced. But large-scale use would "take mind-boggling resources and billions of dollars," University of Winnipeg biologist Robert Anderson told me.

The frankenfly strategy would also have to be "militaristic," Anderson said. Homebody *aegypti* likes to cosy up to humans. It would rather roost indoors in a half-full water glass than a swamp. Modified mosquitoes would have to be released — continually released, remember, because they kill themselves off — in and around homes. Logistical nightmare. Likely unpopular.

Problem B: Environmental impact. What would we miss in a biosphere without mosquitoes? Such science is speculative but the answer might be, "Eh, not that much."

Mosquitos go through drastic population fluctuations, so they're not usually an essential link in their local food webs. I asked Brock University ecologist Fiona Hunter about this, and she said *aegypti* can be erased from the Americas but other mosquitoes are still essential for biodiversity.

So where does that leave us in the Zika battle? Classic mosquito control: eliminating standing water and providing pesticides, repellent, bed nets, window screens and public education. It works OK. It's a pain, and it's expensive, and it means playing nice with our mortal enemy. But it seems the best weapon we have.

Genna Buck is a science writer and a section editor at Metro. Follow her on Twitter @genna_buck.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

It was a relief to leave the gilded never-neverland of Saks

A trip to Saks Fifth Avenue, which unveiled its inaugural Canadian store in Toronto yesterday, begins long before you get there.

It begins standing naked in front of your thrift-store closet, fretting over an outfit. It's like dressing for a date with a wealthy man you may not like but are desperate to impress.

I opt for all black, a cocoon dress over slim slacks, hoping the $2 scarf around my neck has whiffs of 1970s Gucci, but I know I won't have the nerve to take my coat off under the bright lights of the three-floored jewel box. When I eventually glance at my reflection in one of the store's many mirrors and find eyeliner smudged down to my cheeks, it's proof to all those women flinging perfumed paper and macaroons at me that I'm an imposter. Then, a sleek-suited salesman for a French skincare line uses my mirror and checks his teeth.

I am not the only interloper: Tourists with backpacks, an aging biker-gang-styled guy and an elderly couple pulling a wheeled shopping bag wander past small, $150 bottles of perfume from a rare made-in-Japan brand, Celine's $2,500 horseshoe-shaped leather handbags, diamond rings and Prada sunglasses and bouquets of blush-coloured peonies.

Some — amazingly — are here to shop: buying purses that appear from backrooms in red velvet bags; opting, from among more than 1,000 styles of shoes, for the pink, red, and gold-studded Valentino stilettos for $1,500.

At the Carolina Herrera and Oscar de la Renta boutique, I pause to finger an otherwise out-of-reach voluminous evening skirt: $3,790.

Those with money to spend exclaim, "Absolutely gorgeous!" Important-looking people talk with TV-news crews, while an orchestral rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow, of all songs, floats between racks.

For me it's aspirational, but luxury shopping is a growing reality for some. Saks has plans for dozens more stores across the country and Nordstrom is also expanding north of the border, all while luxury-brand flagship stores pop up.

I typically steer clear of such spaces, not just because I can't afford what's inside, but to avoid feeling even schlubbier than I already do. So it was a relief to leave the gilded never-neverland, and step out into the sharp winter cold.

The Saks Fifth Avenue awnings dripped melted snow onto sidewalk crowds. People slipped into the subway or begged for change. I left without those $775 Manolo Blahnik floral pumps, but I did stop by The Bay's repair shop to get my watch fixed, for $22.60.

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MOVIES TELEVISION GOSSIP

From scripture to the big screen

GENRE

There is a right way to make a good Christian film

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

In 2006 Entertainment Weekly rated The Passion of the Christ — Mel Gibson's gritty and gory account of Jesus Christ's final 12 hours leading up to his crucifixion in Jerusalem — the most controversial movie of all time.

Its detractors noted historical and biblical inaccuracies and accused the film of being anti-Semitic and excessively violent. Despite the cries of critics, the film became the top-grossing Christian movie ever.

In fact, it was something of a miracle at the box office, earning $611,899,420 worldwide in its original release.

Since then there has been a trickle of films aimed at a Christian audience, some successful, some not, some controversial, some not.

Passion had a great marketing strategy coupled with enough controversy to get people interested to see what all the fuss was about.

It's been hard to capture that kind of lightning in a bottle again, which is why we haven't seen a cavalcade of biblical epics in mainstream theatres.

This weekend Risen looks to the bible for inspiration. Playing like an unofficial sequel to Gibson's film, it tells the tale of the Resurrection from the perspective of Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a Roman Centurion commanded by Pontius Pilot to quell reports of a risen Messiah and thwart an insurrection in Jerusalem.

The film, directed by Waterworld helmer Kevin Reynolds, appears to have skirted around controversy by telling the story from the point of view of a fictional and non-believing character.

The studio is quick to note, however, that the script is a "faithful scriptural treatment of the story."

The secret to success for a Christian themed movie lies with the filmmaker's ability to translate the scripture to the screen.

Christians like a well told story," War Room director Alex Kendrick, who, with his brother Stephen have been labelled the "Steven Spielbergs of Christian cinema." His movie toppled Straight Outta Compton for the number one spot at the box office last year.

"What we don't like is when our saviour's name is abused or taken in vain or our morals trashed, so that keeps us away from many movies. It's amazing to me that if Hollywood knew how many movies we stayed away from on purpose because of some of the offensive aspects they would change because it means much more money for them."

Risen, opening this weekend, tells the tale of a Roman Centurion tasked with quelling reports of a risen Messiah. CONTRIBUTED

Recently Noah, starring Russell Crowe as the arc-building prophet, angered some Christian groups for not being reverent enough. Director Darren Aronofsky called it the, "least biblical biblical film ever made," and a studio press release admitted, "artistic license has been taken."

The Christian community has met other films with open arms. Catherine Hardwicke's The Nativity Story drew on the gospel of Matthew for the story of the Immaculate Conception and while it wasn't the box office bonanza that made Passion headline news, it made money and skirted around controversy.

In 2004 Christian films were popular enough to garner a category at the irreverent Mexican MTV Movie Awards. Up for Most Divine Miracle in a Movie was the water into wine sequence from The Last Temptation of Christ; Passion's Christ healing Peter's injured ear scene; and the part in Bruce Almighty where Bruce causes his girlfriend's chest to grow several sizes. Mexican audiences voted and Bruce Almighty's miracle took the prize.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Race	★★★
Risen	★★
The Witch	★★★★
Touched With Fire	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

Q&A

Donald, Kiefer Sutherland find a different way to bond

Donald Sutherland, 80, and Kiefer Sutherland, 49, have nearly 275 combined credits and 85 years of experience between them, and have somehow only shared the screen three times.

The first was 1983's Max Dugan Returns. The second was in 1996's A Time to Kill. Now, finally, in the period Western flick Forsaken, in theatres and on demand Friday, the Sutherlands are not only sharing scenes, but a bloodline, playing father and son for the first time.

Did you have an unspoken agreement that you wouldn't necessarily try to work with one another often?

Kiefer: I've wanted to work with my dad since I started. There were three actors who I admired through school — my dad, Gene Hackman and Bobby Duvall.

Did you learn anything about each other during this process?

Kiefer: There's a way he goes to work and it's built for speed and it's incredibly effective and I think it's incredibly well thought out. I would have to say this film more than any other single experience I've had as an actor, I was caught off guard by how looking into my father's eyes would effect a scene.

Donald: Wait, what did you say?

Kiefer: That when I would be in the middle of a scene and when I would actually look into your eyes, I would look into your eyes from my life. They have a resonance to me and they mean something to me and so I would have a visceral reaction to that.

Donald: Because it goes years back.

Kiefer: I had to make a conscious choice not to get in the way of that. So things came to me in the process of making this film that would have been things that I would have had to work quite hard to arrive at. I felt like I was cheating.

Donald: It's absolutely true. You're doing ... it's stupid to say therapy, but your DNA informs a lot of your work. And the combination, you know it's the same DNA roughly.

Kiefer: I lost the tall stick. That wasn't one of the 21 pieces I got.

So in that way, does this film mean more to you?

Kiefer: I didn't spend as much time with my dad as I wanted to when I was growing up and he didn't spend as much time with me as he wanted to when I was growing up. I was thinking, "Well I didn't get to go on that fishing trip with my dad and I didn't get to do this with my dad." I wrapped two days after my dad and he was driving away, and I couldn't help but smile and realize wow, we just spent eight weeks together, 14 hours a day, six days a week. And we made something. That's a lot better than a fishing trip.

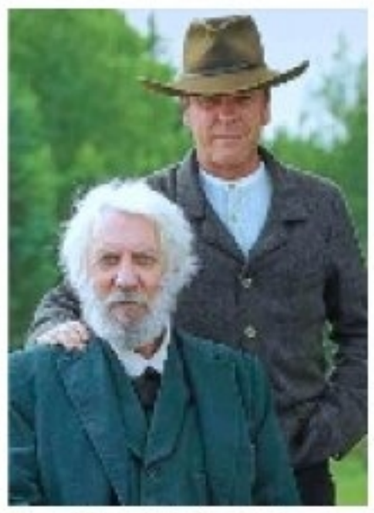
Donald: We went fishing!

Kiefer: Well I know we went fishing.

Donald: I don't like fishing.

Kiefer: I was using it more as a metaphor than anything else.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Donald and Kiefer Sutherland play father and son in Forsaken. DAN POWER/MOMENTUM

BIOGRAPHY

Jutra's name pulled from awards amid accusations of pedophilia

Quebec's film industry has decided to withdraw the name of alleged pedophile Claude Jutra from its annual awards show.

Québec Cinéma made the announcement Wednesday, a few hours after Culture Minister Helene David asked the organization to consider yanking Jutra's name from the awards, which honour the best in Quebec cinema.

A biography released this week said Jutra slept with young boys, while La Presse quoted a man Wednesday as saying the late filmmaker began touching him when he was six years old and that the abuse escalated over a 10-year period.

Patrick Roy, head of Québec Cinéma's board of directors, said he and his colleagues were "deeply upset" by the abuse the man allegedly suffered at the hands of Jutra.

"That's what has prompted us to change the name of the gala," he told a news conference.

The man interviewed by La Presse said Jutra was a friend of his parents.

"He would always bring me presents," he said. "I was happy to see him. I was a kid. I would jump on his back and he would make me roll over. Everyone had the impression it was good fun."

The alleged victim said Jutra would lie beside him in his bed and ask for long hugs before he began touching the boy's genitals.

He said the abuse then heightened over the years and involved masturbation and oral sex.

No new name has yet been set for the next gala, which is scheduled for March 20.

David also requested a list of all the places in Quebec that bear Jutra's name so municipalities can decide whether to keep them as is.

"I'm very very troubled and so sad about what I read this morning," David said in Quebec City.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre also weighed in Wednesday, saying the city would move to withdraw Jutra's name from a downtown park as well as from a street in an east-end borough.

Coderre said he could not "defend the indefensible."

The film director committed suicide in 1986 after battling Alzheimer's disease. The Jutra Awards, which recognize the best in Quebec cinema, have been named after him for nearly 20 years.

The biography, which was released Tuesday, says Jutra had a penchant for sleeping with young boys.

The allegations in Yves Lever's Claude Jutra, biographie upended the province's film world and forced Québec Cinéma to say it was forming a committee to determine whether to keep the awards show named in his honour.

Lever said Jutra, whose body of work included Mon oncle Antoine and Kamouraska, "especially liked boys of 14 or 15 and even younger."

No complaints were ever filed with authorities.

Later on Wednesday, the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, which hands out the Claude Jutra Award for the year's best feature film by a first-time director, announced it was dropping his name.

"In light of recent developments, the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television will rename its Claude Jutra award to the Canadian Screen Award for Best First Feature," Academy chair Martin Katz said in a statement.

That award, which began in 1993, is separate from the Quebec ones. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The biography of Quebec filmmaker Claude Jutra by author Yves Lever accused the famous director of sleeping with young boys. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Katie Holmes and Luke Kirby in Touched With Fire. JOEY KUHH, ROADSIDE ATTRACTION

Holmes inspired to direct by Polley

NEW CHALLENGES

Star hungry for more behind-the-camera and indie work

Actress Katie Holmes credits Canadian filmmaker Sarah Polley with her decision to start directing.

"Sarah Polley is a huge inspiration for me and a very strong reason why I said I think I want to try it," Holmes said in an interview from Los Angeles.

Stretching herself as an actress, along with moving behind the camera, seems part of a coming into her own phase for the 37-year-old Holmes, who remains best known for her tabloid-fodder marriage to Tom Cruise. They divorced in 2012.

Holmes portrays bipolar poet Carla in drama Touched With Fire, which opens this weekend. Her character becomes involved with Marco, a similarly afflicted writer (Canada's Luke Kirby), while both are in a psychiatric hospital.

"I was really drawn to the challenge of it as an actor and I felt great doing it," said Holmes. She's gratified people familiar with the disorder have responded, "they felt heard — and that is the most rewarding thing you can get from a piece of work."

The movie also explores the use of medications. Marco, having discovered a book about legendary artists with manic-depressive illness, is convinced that, like Vincent Van Gogh, his disorder sparks his genius and antidepressants only dull his brain.

It was a challenge to play Carla, Holmes told Torstar News Service, hitting the emotional extremes experienced by her character in authentic ways as the pair struggle to live outside the hospital while convincing their families that they are good for each other. They try to build a life together, with their situation complicated by Carla's pregnancy.

Holmes said the long days on set doing such emotional work were exhausting. She used the weekends to "refuel," spending time "just parenting" with daughter Suri, 9.

Holmes has just finished directing her first movie, All We Had. She also stars in the drama, based on Annie Weatherwax's novel about homelessness and hope seen through the eyes of a young mother and her daughter.

And she'll return to play former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in TV's The Kennedys: After Camelot, the followup to the 2011 miniseries. Holmes, an executive producer on the Hamilton-shot production, will also direct an episode. It airs later this year.

Holmes is preparing for her next directing job by "reading a lot of books" with an eye to optioning more for future films, allowing her to "continue telling the stories I want to tell through the lenses I want to tell it."

Studio picture or indie, Holmes said her "wonderful" first experience behind the camera has made her hungry for more.

"I enjoyed the process of thinking on my feet, working with actors, trying to inspire different choices in their performance .... and just enjoying how much I felt so moved by how much people around me contributed to make the movie the vision I had," she said. "I'm very excited about it."

Poetry of Polley

"She has such a poetry to her filmmaking," Katie Holmes says of Sarah Polley, shown at left, who she talked to for a 2013 story in Interview magazine about Stories We Tell, the Toronto director's revelatory documentary about her family history.

The two had worked together on energetic 1999 comedy-drama Go. Holmes was also familiar with Polley's award-winning 2011 drama Take This Waltz because her Touched With Fire co-star Luke Kirby also starred in Polley's Toronto-shot drama.

Holmes, who called Stories We Tell "incredible," asked Polley to share wisdom on acting and directing, family-work balance and who inspires her.

Holmes also praises her female contemporaries who are directing, including Olivia Wilde and her All We Had co-star Judy Greer.

"There are so many inspiring women out there who are telling stories in challenging ways," said Holmes. "It's wonderful that there's this group (of) people going out there and doing it and getting their voices heard. I want to be part of that even more." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Black magic and 17th century feminism

HORROR

Robert Eggers cast a spell on critics with The Witch

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Filmmaker Robert Eggers is winning awards and getting a lot of attention for crafting what's quite possibly Hollywood's very first feminist horror film featuring 17th Century New England pilgrims.

"I think it's just something about the zeitgeist and I'm lucky that witches are in the air," explained Eggers during an interview about The Witch and its accumulating acclaim.

"Two years ago, people might've just gone 'it's just some weird pilgrim horror movie, (screw) that.'"

Of course, The Witch isn't just a "weird pilgrim movie." In fact, the thought-provoking drama about one puritan family's brush with black magic is a visually-striking authentication of the witch archetype and it's manifestation of "men's fears, desires, ambivalence, fantasies about women and female power" in the 17th Century.

But the film also "strangely (represented) women's fears, desires, ambivalences about motherhood in this extremely male-dominated society," added Eggers. "And the shadows of that still exist today."

A far cry from the popularized green-skinned caricature in a pointy hat from Broadway musical Wicked or even the Hollywood classic The Wizard of Oz, Eggers' witch dares to demonstrate that even though his film is set nearly 400 years ago in the forests of New England, it's still an important parallel to society's modern perceptions of women.

"I wasn't trying to go at this with any sort of social, political, religious angle or agenda but when you read the primary source material, feminism is just bursting out all over the place," said Eggers. "I mean, as a collective cultural conscience, actually claiming female power in a positive way is something we're still struggling with."

Underlining the drama with such subtext may have been the more manageable task for the Sundance Film Festival winner for Best Directing. In fact, attempting to capture the 17th Century on celluloid seemed to be the more considerable challenge.

"Puritans were not into art so there's not a great painting tradition from the period," explained Eggers of the largely uncharted look and feel of the era. "But we feel confident, even if this isn't the most accurate version, certainly this is our best — given the most up-to-date research. I mean, we screened for colonial historians and they gave it a thumbs up."

SUPERSTITION

The Real World Witch

"In the 17th Century, the real world and fairytale world were the exact same thing," said Eggers. "If you called someone a witch, you really believed this person was capable of doing all the horrific, primal things that the witch in my film does."

Anya Taylor-Joy stars in the pilgrim horror movie The Witch, in theatres today. CONTRIBUTED

When you read the primary source material, feminism is just bursting out all over the place.
Director Robert Eggers

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Leaping into the myth of a sports legend

Toronto-born Stephan James plays the legendary 1936 African American Olympic track-and-field gold medallist Jesse Owens in Race. CONTRIBUTED

BIOPIC

Canadian plays iconic Olympic athlete Jesse Owens in Race

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

In the film Race, Toronto-born actor Stephan James plays the greatest and most famous athlete in track and field history. But, when he was approached about the part, James wasn't sure exactly who Jesse Owens was.

"When I got that call that they're making a Jesse Owens biopic I scratched my head a little," the 22-year-old says. "He won those gold medals, right? How many did he win again? I didn't know how many he won or where he won them or under what circumstances or when this all took place."

He quickly learned about Owens's early career, the Ohio State races that made him a legend and how an African American runner stared down Hitler by winning four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

"After reading the script and researching his life to find out the backstory I was literally blown away. Blown away that this had taken place almost 80 years ago."

The film documents 28 turbulent months in Owens's life, from just before he enrolled in university to the Olympics where, ESPN would later say, the runner "single-handedly crush[ed] Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy."

Jason Sudeikis, who plays Owens's college trainer Larry Snyder, says he wanted to make the movie because "it didn't lean on any one thing. It was bigger than just a sports film. It wasn't pontificating, we didn't treat Jesse with kid gloves and only as an icon. We can't have all our heroes with giant hammers and capes. While that is good at the box office and for people with stock options I don't know how good it is for little boys and girls who think that is the only way they can become a hero. We got to show the humanity behind him, we see him warts and all. You see his petulance, you get to see his indecision, you see him make horrible missteps as a husband and father, and yet all through that adversity he has the humility and integrity to correct those mistakes. That is just as heroic as whipping Hitler's buns for four gold medals."

We got to show the humanity behind [Jesse Owens], we see him warts and all.
Jason Sudeikis, who plays Owen's trainer

James, who was recently seen as civil rights leader John Lewis in the critically acclaimed Selma, felt the weight of playing a legend on screen.

"It is one thing to be leading your own film," he says. "To be number one on that call sheet, to know you have the biggest workload, to know that there are millions of dollars and ideas on your head. It's another thing to play Jesse Owens, the icon, the man, the myth, the legend. A guy who is not only a pivotal person in American history but world history, so I knew I had my work cut for me. The pressure was there. Obviously he's not alive but his family is and have been very much involved since the beginning. There is a certain responsibility to play a real character, of course, but the great Jesse Owens is a whole other thing."

After starring as Owens in Race, James has his sights set on playing another kind of hero. "I want to play Spider-Man," he says. "I think that would be dope. I've always wanted to play a superhero but Spider-Man is so cool, so unassuming. I think I can relate a little."

DEBATE

Doesn't matter if you're black or white: Joseph Fiennes

Joseph Fiennes is defending himself in the wake of criticism after being cast as Michael Jackson in an upcoming half-hour TV special, acknowledging the topic is "sensitive" but never intending it to be divisive.

The white actor will play the King of Pop in the upcoming Sky Arts comedy Elizabeth, Michael, and Marlon, which tells the story of a road trip taken by Jackson, Marlon Brando and Elizabeth Taylor as they flee New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"I deal in imagination, so I don't think imagination should have rules stamped on them," Fiennes told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "If it promotes stereotyping, then it's wrong. I made a distinction that the Jackson project doesn't do that."

The casting of Fiennes comes as controversy rages over the lack of diversity in the Oscar nominations and in the film industry at large. The actor admitted to being initially surprised by the colourblind casting. "It was a shock. I thought someone had got it wrong."

But the Shakespeare in Love actor said he loves a challenge, providing it's in good taste.

"This is territory that is sensitive. One must determine if this portrayal is one that is going to be positive entertainment, and one that will not bring about division and put anyone's noses out of joint, so I went with the mind that this was a positive lighthearted comedy," Fiennes said.

"This is not a movie; it's a small television 20-minute sketch. It's a very sweet comedy that looks at Michael, Marlon and Taylor," Fiennes said. The actor admits if it were anything more, "I wouldn't be the guy for the job." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joseph Fiennes to play Michael Jackson in TV special. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Trump to open swank D.C. hotel ahead of U.S. election

A princess in training

Sick of running through the sleet and snow? Then go to Disney. The company's resorts offer a number of marathons throughout the year to make running even more fun. Writer Jennifer White shares her last-minute prep for this weekend's Princess Run in Florida.

Jennifer White
Torstar News Service

Anything worth doing is worth doing poorly, in a rush, while complaining. As an Olympic-level procrastinator, this strategy has steered me through the most stressful of life experiences (ask me about my master's thesis one day).

But when I found myself a mere four weeks before the Feb. 21 half-marathon at Disney World with no significant training in months, I wanted to run. Away.

My knee injury (and IT band tightness and hip inflexibility and everything my Mamma gave me) had not just crimped my running-plan style, it had shrunk my training window to insignificance.

But after being poked, prodded, stretched, strengthened and, finally, braced, I was literally back on the road. I had no idea how to get where I wanted to be (again, uncannily like that thesis) and was desperate to find some way, any way, of making it to the finish line. Because what lay ahead could be a veritable Turducken of embarrassment; a lack of training wrapped in injury-plagued luck, nauseatingly stuffed inside a high-stakes social experiment that (apparently) people are reading about in a national newspaper.

I felt awesome. And by awesome I mean sick. That's when I called a Hail Mary. I scoured the Internet for tips from people who were underprepared to run such a distance, trying to find the best ways to do no harm to myself, finish in the upright position and still have enough gas in the tank for a few jars of celebratory ale at the finish line. After collating all of the best plans from the brightest running minds around, I whipped and frappéed them into the single-best Hail Mary running plan in the entire universe, the core principles of which boiled down to one guiding rule: Do Your Best.

My focus turned first to endurance. If I was going to have the fortitude to walk 21 kilometres, let alone run it, I needed to get my heart a-pumping again. Mondays were 30 minutes of medium-intensity intervals, combined with short bursts of powerful sprints in order to prepare best for the outlay of power necessary during the race. Wednesdays featured an "at-half-marathon-pace" run for 30 minutes. And the weekend heralded a slower-than-molasses long run where I would delicately plod my way through an increasingly mind-numbing distance until I either hit the magic 16-kilometre mark a week before the race, or crumpled into the fetal position.

But wait, there's more! Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays held a variety of Herculean tasks. This chocolate box of unlimited delights included cross-training, cycling, swimming and my personal (absolutely opposite of) favourite, yoga. On one particularly painful run, I wondered if this was all worth it. But while in the middle of a sprint, I took a moment and looked down at myself. I saw a strong, powerful woman. I saw that she was running her guts out in the middle of an Ontario winter. And I saw that she was dressed head-to-toe in her ridiculously elaborate Disney half-marathon costume, just to make sure it didn't chafe on the big day. If I can do what I've done while dressed as Ursula, the villainous sea-witch in The Little Mermaid, I can flipping do anything.

24K
The number of participants in the 2015 Disney Princess Half Marathon, making it one of the largest female-focused events in the U.S.

91.5%
Percentage of female participants in the Princess marathon

28
Number of countries runners come from

COURTESY TODD ANDERSON

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Disneyland Half Marathon Weekend
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Nov. 4-Nov. 5, Walt Disney World Resort, Florida

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TRAVEL NOTES CHAPLIN, CROATIA AND IMAX

Long-awaited Charlie Chaplin museum to open in April

A museum showcasing the life and works of Charlie Chaplin will open at his former Swiss home in the village of Corsier-sur-Vevey in April after more than 15 years of planning, organizers say. Chaplin spent the last 25 years of his life in Switzerland after he was barred from the U.S. in the 1950s over suspicions that he had communist sympathies, at the height of the McCarthy-era. AFP

Charlie Chaplin's last residence, the Manoir de Ban. AFP

Zadar, Croatia beats Paris, Rome in vote for best European destinations

The results of a public vote have crowned the city of Zadar on Croatia's Dalmatian coast Europe's best destination for 2016, a place Alfred Hitchcock called the home of the most beautiful sunset in the world. The waterfront town beat bigger, more cosmopolitan destinations like Paris, Rome and Madrid to take the top spot, according to europeanbestdestinations.com. AFP

Zadar, on the Dalmatian coast. ISTOCK

New 3D IMAX film shows off American national parks

Robert Redford narrates a new IMAX film that shows off America's natural beauty to commemorate the U.S. National Park Service's centennial. In addition to serving up a visual feast, National Parks Adventure traces the history of the National Park Service. In 1903, naturalist John Muir took Theodore Roosevelt on a camping trip through Yosemite Valley to try to persuade him of the importance of preserving the country's natural resources from industrial pillaging and plundering. AFP

El Capitan, Yosemite National Park. ISTOCK

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4 ASIAN FESTIVALS THAT SHOULDN'T BE MISSED

A continent renowned for its beguiling array of cultures, Asia hosts a myriad of festivals. Each marked by their own traditions and activities, these annual celebrations make for wonderful tourist experiences. Whether water fighting in Thailand or sending lanterns afloat in Myanmar, you can take part in these festivals in 2016. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 Poya festival (Sri Lanka)

While many major festivals in Asia are annual, the Poya festivals in Sri Lanka coincide with **each full moon**, meaning they number at least a dozen per year. These Buddhist festivals are public holidays and derive from the belief that Buddha wanted his followers to carry out significant spiritual activities on the day of every full moon. Many worshippers don white clothing and visit Buddhist temples or shrines to join ceremonies and make offerings. There also are street parades involving music and children dressed in traditional costumes.

2 Songkran (Thailand)

Few festivals in Asia encourage the participation of tourists as readily as Thailand's nationwide Songkran water festival, which marks the Thai New Year on **April 13**. For three days each April, Thai cities, towns and villages switch into party mode as their streets swell with local and foreign revellers dousing each other with water.

3 Bonalu (Hyderabad, India)

Smeared in body paint, men writhe and groan in an apparent state of trance. Next to them, a line of women wearing saris sway while balancing ornate pots upon their heads. This group forms a procession along the stone paths which lead through ancient Golkonda Fort. It is a fascinating manner in which Hindus give thanks to the Goddess Mahakali **every July.**

4 Loi Krathong (Southeast Asia)

The serene experience of lighting a lantern and setting it floating down a river, across a lake, into the ocean or up into the sky is the key activity of this Buddhist festival that takes place on **Nov. 15.** The act of sending these lanterns on their way symbolizes the disposal of one's bad luck for the previous year. It is celebrated in Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, China and Vietnam.

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metro SPORTS

David Price made his first big-money throws of spring training as Red Sox pitchers and catchers reported to Fort Myers, Fla.

One win from Rio

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Canada faces Costa Rica for Olympic berth

Less than eight months after exiting the World Cup on home soil, Canada is poised to book its ticket Friday to the other major of women's soccer — the Olympics.

Costa Rica stands in the way in the CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Championship semifinal. Ranked 34th in the world, the Ticas are seen as a team on the rise. Still, the 11th-ranked Canadians would seem a significant cut above.

The top-ranked U.S. will face No. 48 Trinidad & Tobago in the later semifinal Friday at BBVA Compass Stadium. Both semifinal winners qualify for the Olympics, where Canada won bronze four years ago.

Coach John Herdman anticipates the Costa Ricans parking the bus in front of their goal.

"We'd expect them to probably throw a deep block out there and ask Canada to come and break us down," he told the pre-match news conference. "We've had a lot of experience of that over the last three games — teams parking the bus and forcing us to be creative. So we're in a good rhythm in that sense."

If teams have parked the bus, they have left the windows and doors open.

Eleven different Canadians scored during the pool stage as Canada thumped No. 89 Guyana 5-0, Trinidad and Tobago 6-0 and No. 76 Guatemala 10-0.

"That's the exciting part," said Herdman. "Everyone coming out of the World Cup hammered us because we couldn't score. We were one of the best defensive teams in the tournament. We didn't get enough credit for that I don't think but you never do for defending.

"I think we've got a new threat there," he said of his attack.

Canada scored four goals and conceded three in five games at the World Cup where it exited in a 2-1 quarter-final loss to England.

Costa Rica made its World Cup debut last summer tying Spain 1-1 and South Korea 2-2 before losing 1-0 to Brazil.

The Ticas, who have never reached the Olympics, advanced to Friday's semifinal by beating No. 108 Puerto Rico 9-0 and No. 26 Mexico 2-1 after an opening 5-0 loss to the U.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

27

Canada has outscored Costa Rica by 27 goals (30-3) in winning each of the nine matches between the two countries.

NHL HURRICANES BLOW INTO TOWN The Hurricanes' Kris Versteeg attempts a wraparound against Senators goaltender Craig Anderson as Kyle Turris defends on Thursday night at the Canadian Tire Centre. The Sens entered the game having won just one of their last four since acquiring Dion Phaneuf in a trade. For the story, go to metronews.ca. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Limping Manchester United rotten in Denmark

Manchester United's disappointing season hit a new low with a 2-1 loss at Danish champion FC Midtjylland in the Europa League last 32 on Thursday, with a pre-match injury to goalkeeper David de Gea adding to the fallen English giant's woes in the first leg.

United's injury list already contained 13 players, including Wayne Rooney, who missed the game with a knee injury.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clippers send Stephenson packing, acquire Green

The Memphis Grizzlies traded forward Jeff Green to the Los Angeles Clippers in exchange for guard Lance Stephenson, said two people with knowledge of the deal.

Green has played 53 games this season and is averaging 12.2 points per game with 4.5 rebounds and 1.8 assists. Stephenson has started 10 of his 43 games this season and is averaging 4.7 points per game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Raptors idle on trade-deadline day

Moments after Thursday afternoon's NBA trade deadline passed, Toronto Raptors general manager Masai Ujiri walked into a room full of reporters and joked: "You guys are busier than I am."

Ujiri opted to keep his roster intact as the 3 p.m. ET deadline came and went, saying there was "nothing there good enough for us." He pointed to Toronto's momentum. The Raptors (35-17) are winners of 14 of their last 16 games, and sit second in the Eastern Conference, just three games back of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Ujiri said keeping the status quo will bolster the confidence of the players he has.

"I think it showed in the past that we are willing to give our players a chance. And we have great chemistry, we won 14 out of 16, why can't it continue to grow?" he said.

The Raptors return to action Friday in Chicago.

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RECIPE Egg Bakes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

These egg bakes take your easy scrambled eggs and toast dinner to the next level with only a little extra effort. And they're cute too.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes

Makes: 4 egg cups

Ingredients
- 4 slices of wholegrain bread
- 2 Tbsp butter, softened
- 4 eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Heat the oven to 375 F.

2. Trim the crusts off of your bread. Use a rolling pin to flatten them and butter both sides of each piece. Press each thin slice into a muffin tin.

3. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes, or until the bread is golden brown. Remove from oven and place muffin tin on a cookie sheet — it will make getting your finished eggs out of the oven easier. Now crack an egg into each nest and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

4. Place it back into the oven for about 20 minutes, you want the yolks and whites to set but not get too hard. Remove from the oven and use a butter knife to pry egg bakes out of the muffin tin. Serve with a side salad.

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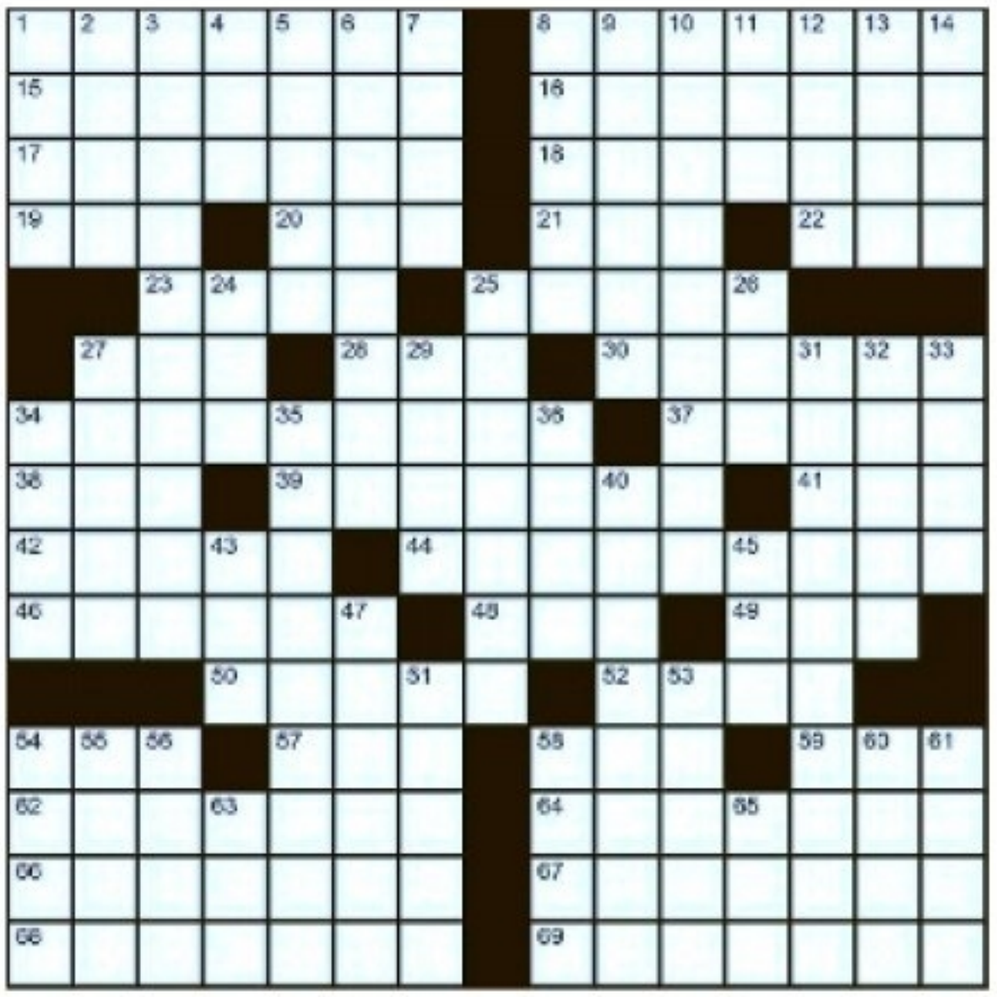
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. 1918 Montreal-to-Toronto: _ JN-4 'Canuck' (Plane used for Canada's first official aerial mail delivery)
8. Purplish red
15. Nose spray brand
16. Resistance to action
17. CRA = Canada _ Agency
18. Cushion decorations
19. Opposite NNW
20. 'Lact' suffix
21. Bitty Brit band
22. Gathered
23. Pro _ (Proportionately)
25. Febreze-using reason
27. Tricky
28. Discontinuity
30. Sharp-tailed _ (Saskatchewan's provincial bird)
34. 'Psst'-ing person
37. Poem comprised of lines from other poems
38. Basketball great, _ Ming
39. Ridiculous
41. Bamboozle
42. Optimist's opposer
44. 'Central' and 'Atlantic' in the National Basketball League of Canada
46. Ottawa-born singer/songwriter, _ Chante
48. Bird beak
49. Theatrical prompt
50. Q. "Kermit, the Muppets character, what is he?" A. "_ _."
52. Radar signal
54. Extinct bird
57. Lithium-_ battery
58. Conrad of Bravo police drama "19-2"
59. Pot cover
62. Indirect/slanting
64. Dinner party guest's gift, perhaps: 2 wds.
66. American roots music band that played with Jefferson Airplane: 2 wds.
67. Seventh or eleventh, for example
68. Ranks the tennis players again
69. Allocates

DOWN
1. 'Burned' computer discs, commonly
2. Scottish musician Midge's
3. Niagara _ _ (National Basketball League of Canada team)
4. Blood-sucking bug's half
5. "Is _ _ over yet?" (That game is still in overtime?)
6. Products by Canadian food brand Schneiders
7. Snick-or-_
8. Referenced
9. _ clock
10. Natural _ Canada
11. "_, Doubtfire" (1993)
12. Detail
13. World's longest river
14. The Middle _
24. Group of Seven painter Mr. Jackson, et al.
25. New store's 'grand' event
26. Deer sort
27. "Happy Baby" Canadian music trio
29. Dry
31. Gwyneth and Chris made headlines when they were 'conscious' about it
32. Masonry material
33. Long times
34. Klee _ (Emily Carr book)
35. West coast water ...en francais
36. Cleave
40. Rabbits whilst eating
43. Smashing Pumpkins co-founder James
45. Henri's 'here'
47. More or less
51. Q. "Did U2 release '_' _ a single in 1992?" A. "Yes."
53. Cheryl and Diane
54. Jay of "Jerry Maguire" (1996)
55. Orchestra instrument
56. Mountain heights [abbr.]
58. Malayan sailing boat
60. _ _ uproar
61. Rocker Mr. Shannon's
63. 'Favour' finisher
65. Nintendo game console

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
The next few weeks won't be easy but try not to make them harder than they have to be. A lot will depend on your attitude, especially your willingness to rise to a challenge rather than be intimidated by it.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The Sun in Pisces will boost your self-esteem and bring you into contact with people whose ideals mirror your own. But being challenged will inspire you to fight all the harder.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an important time for career. You'll get opportunities to show what you can do. Seize them. If you let them pass you by they won't come around again for a long time.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The Sun's change of signs will lead to a broadening of your horizons. Ideas that never meant much to you in the past will capture your imagination.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
It is unlikely you will be satisfied with superficial answers. You want — no you demand — to know what is going on beneath the surface and behind the scenes.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Look for ways to co-operate with others today and over the weekend. Remember, too, that everyone has a good side and a bad side but the good side is always stronger, especially if it is given encouragement. Let people know you like them.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You dislike it when unexpected events disturb your methods and habits but that's too bad because there will be severe disruptions over the next few days. Don't get uptight, in the long-term it will do you good.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today and soon you will be moving so fast you will have trouble catching your breath. If you make an extra effort now you will reap rewards down the road.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It may seem as if the whole world is against you but nothing could be further from the truth. You are simply more touchy than usual. Stay calm.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will be on the move a lot over the next few weeks but today it will pay you to stay where you are. An extremely busy phase is about to begin and once you start you won't want, or be able, to stop.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The focus of your life is about to change, maybe a little, maybe a lot. One thing that will change is your finances which have been less than healthy. Essentials only from now on!

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
The time has come to show the world what you can do. You won't lack for energy or enthusiasm, so use them to pursue excellence in everything you do. You'll dazzle!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	5				8	2	1	
	2							3
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3								4
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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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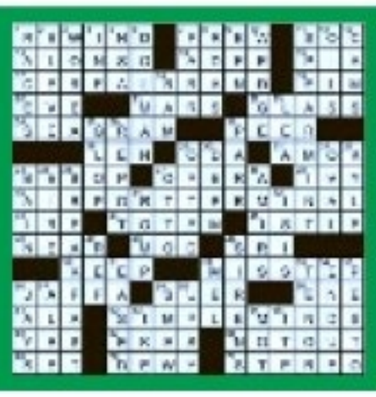

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2	9	7	4	6	3	1	8	5
7	3	2	8	9	5	4	1	6
8	5	4	6	3	1	7	9	2
9	1	6	7	4	2	3	5	8

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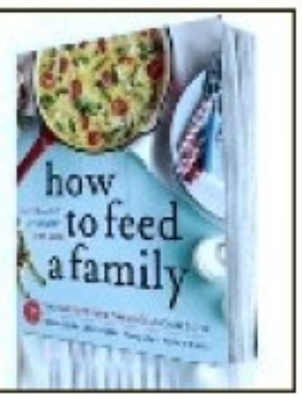

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